



CITY OF DANBURY

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MARK D. BOUGHTON
MAYOR

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March 11, 2013

Testimony
Honorable Mark D. Boughton
Mayor
City of Danbury
Before the Finance Committee

RE: HB-6575 – AN ACT CONCERNING STATE GRANTS TO MUNICIPALITIES

The City of Danbury supports the provisions in Section 2 of HB-6575 which increase the percentage of costs eligible for reimbursement for phosphorus removal from 30% to 50% under the Clean Water Fund.

The City of Danbury continues to be vigilant stewards of our environment and waterways and will operate our existing Waste Water Treatment Plants to optimize the quality of discharge effluent.

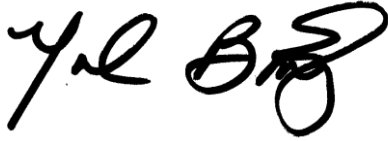
The Danbury Waste Water Treatment Plant currently removes approximately 90% of all influent total phosphorus. We will continue to optimize our efforts to lower total phosphorus through the use of multiple point chemical addition. However, in order to meet the state Department of Energy & Environmental Protection's (DEEP) phosphorus removal limits of 0.1 mg/l – to achieve 98% removal – \$25 - \$30 million in extensive capital improvements to the Danbury Waste Water Treatment Plan would be necessary, resulting in an estimated 60-70% increase in sewer rates.

DEEP has indicated that compliance with the phosphorus removal limits is a top priority of the state. We remain concerned, based on the continued review of multiple scientific consultants, whether reducing phosphorus loads to 0.1 mg/l will result in a significant improvement in water quality or attainment of the designated uses in Limekiln Brook, the Still River, or downstream waters. However, the state has maintained that it will require us to achieve an additional 8% phosphorus reduction, at a cost of \$25 -\$30 million.

We do not believe it is fair for our residents to shoulder 70% of the costs associated with compliance with standards that DEEP maintains will have a statewide benefit. **We therefore urge lawmakers to support the provisions in Section 2 of HB-6575 which will more equitably fund this project.**

The City of Danbury also supports a collaborative model for addressing phosphorus removal to ensure that all parties involved have the opportunity to fully understand and agree on the fundamental approach and scientific methodology needed to achieve statewide phosphorus reduction goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. D. Boughton", with a stylized, cursive script.

Mark D. Boughton
Mayor